

Farming to Be Put on War Basis

Congress Will Be Asked to Guarantee Prices and Fix Wages

National Meeting Of Agriculturists

Intensive Milling and Closing of Breweries to Save Grain Are Urged

St. Louis, April 9.—Representatives from all parts of the United States, except New England and the Pacific Coast, met in an all-day conference here today to plan an appeal to Congress to pass laws guaranteeing a minimum price for all farm products and a minimum wage to farm laborers. There will also be a call upon the bankers to lend money to the farmers to buy seeds and a demand upon farmers to increase farm production by a greater acreage and more scientific methods of cultivation. The conference was under the direction of the secretary of Agriculture, David F. Houston.

The conference adjourned late this afternoon. It will put its programme into final shape to-day and will adopt definite recommendations to Congress.

The agricultural experts agree that since the United States has entered the war it will fall to the lot of this country to feed itself, France and England, and will call for an increase in farm production to an extent never before undertaken by this country.

May Form Farm Army

One of the proposals is to place men rejected from the naval and military services in what may be called the "agricultural service," the proposal entailing a new department in connection with the army, to be paid on the same basis as the army and to have the same scale of rank and promotion.

Secretary Houston said that the conference in St. Louis was called after he had received thousands of demands from all parts of the United States for information as to what this country would do in the present crisis.

That a great emergency really exists and that steps should be taken immediately to insure planting of the greatest crop in the nation's history, within the next five weeks, is the opinion of all the men in the conference, including deans of various agricultural colleges, presidents of nearly every agricultural university in the United States and men from various state agricultural boards. All the editors of farm papers will meet in St. Louis Wednesday.

Would Stop Liquor Output

Henry J. Waters, president of the Kansas State Agricultural College, said that the bread output could be increased by milling 81 per cent of the flour, instead of 75 per cent, of the present method. This, he said, would make an increase of 18,000,000 barrels of flour. He also advised the closing of all breweries and distilleries, which, he said, would save more than 6,000,000 bushels of grain.

Secretary Houston said that it was the duty of the government to see that the channels of distribution of food products are kept open and that manipulation and speculation do not dominate the marketing of the products.

Plan to Mobilize Food Resources of New York

Utica, N. Y., April 9.—Active measures for the mobilization of the state's food producing resources will be taken at a special meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society, called for the Assembly parlors at Albany on Friday by President F. W. Sessions, of Utica.

Intensive application of labor in all state and county institutions is one feature of the plans. This would include putting prisoners at agricultural work and the extensive use of other available lands of the state and county. Solution of the labor problem for the average farmer through cooperation with the utilization of boys and girls from the great centres of population also are included.

"We will not interfere with the work of enlistment for army and navy," Mr. Sessions said, "but we want every man, woman and child in the state capable of producing food to feel that there is no other enlistment quite as essential. We must have food, and plenty of it."

268,000 Boy Scouts Called to Raise Food

"Every scout to feed a soldier" was the war slogan chosen for the 268,000 members of the Boy Scouts of America by their executive board at a meeting at national headquarters here yesterday. A resolution was adopted, after conferences with officials of the Navy Department, the Department of Agriculture and the American Red Cross under which the scouts, in addition to the service they will render to the police and civic authorities in their own cities, will assist the National Council of Defense as follows:

"First, to cooperate with the Department of Agriculture in the cultivation of home gardens to increase the nation's food supply.

"Second, to cooperate with the American National Red Cross.

"Third, to cooperate with the Navy Department in organizing emergency coast patrol along the seacoast towns."

To the Scout members an example is being set by the members of the



China Protests Against Being Driven Into War

Washington, April 9.—The text of a cable message sent to David Lloyd George, the British Premier, by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, first provisional President of China, urging him to stop the pressure on China to join the Entente, was received here today. It says:

"After careful study I come to the conclusion that it would be disastrous to both countries should China break neutrality. For China is yet an infant republic, and as a nation she may be likened to a sick man just entering the hospital of constitutionalism. As once, should there arise discord, general anarchy would result."

Sun Yat-sen Warns Lloyd George Allies Injure Cause in the East

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School Pupils to Help Farmers of New Jersey

Trenton, April 9.—Governor Edge's fight to make New Jersey do its part in feeding the world in the coming days of the war went forth vigorously today when he called a conference to plan ways and means to increase planting and growing of food supplies in this state. The conference attained this definite decision—boys and girls of the high schools, particularly those in the rural sections, will be called upon to help the farmers with their crops.

It was decided to keep the schools in session and allow the students to go to the farms in groups for three weeks at a time. Later they can help with the canning season. The youths are to get as a reward for this patriotic service honor medals to be issued by the state.

Armour Warns U. S. To Fix Food Prices

Says America Faces Europe's Plight in Supply Shortage

Chicago, April 9.—"If immediate and radical steps are not taken to increase and conserve the food supply of the United States," said J. Ogden Armour today, "this country will find itself next fall and winter in as bad a state, so far as food is concerned, as any of the warring nations of Europe."

"The food shortage is world-wide. Because the time is so short and the situation so dangerous, I favor government supervision and control of food production and food prices. They have been forced to come to that in Europe. Let us do it before we are compelled to do so."

Boston's War Hospital On Historic Common

Boston, April 9.—Boston's proposed Red Cross base hospital will be located on Boston Common, the historic training ground of the Revolutionary War.

This decision was reached at a conference today between Mayor Curley and city officials. The Federal government will furnish the tents and some of the other necessary furnishings, and the citizens of Boston will raise \$25,000 for other equipment.

DR. BRUSH'S KUMYSS IS A GREAT
friend to the stomach—Aunt

RIDING TO A FALL

By ARTHUR S. DRAPER

London, April 9.—The great spring offensive of the British in northern France is under way. Driving forward along a twelve-mile front between Arras and Lens at 5:30 o'clock this morning, in the face of a biting sleet storm, Haig's troops struck the first blow in what is likely to develop into the greatest battle in history.

To-night the British are still advancing over the entire front, storming and conquering some of the most powerful positions reared by the Germans on the western battle line. The battle of Arras has developed within twelve hours the heaviest fighting since the war began.

The British already have penetrated from two or three miles into the enemy's territory, have everywhere crumpled up the German defences and up to 2 o'clock this afternoon had swept in more than 5,800 prisoners. Even the conservative reports of General Haig indicate that these figures are being increased hour by hour.

Capture Vimy Ridge

The fate of the German line was sealed early in the day's battle when the famous Vimy Ridge, where 100,000 French soldiers died months ago and which had defied all efforts of the British to capture it later, fell to the Canadians. Then the whole right flank of the German line in this region gave way. Telegrams from the front, Neuville Vitasse, the Harp, La Folie Farm, St. Laurent-Blangy—all names that have lived in the war news for two years as significant of the power of Germany's defensive system—succumbed in quick succession as the British troops advanced behind the fire of tanks, once more brought into battle.

Five miles after the offensive spread, until the German armies were in retreat along a twelve-mile stretch and, almost disorganized, were deserting their guns and surrendering.

From Arras to Lens the British guns have prepared a path for the advance of the infantry by a bombardment that overshadowed the artillery's destructive work at the opening of the battle of the Somme last year.

The German defences were split apart and the German defenders were stunned. When the first wave of British infantry swept over the parapets at dawn and reached across the shell torn No Man's Land into the trenches where the enemy had stood firm but a few hours before, they found complete desolation.

Too Dazed to Fight.

Those of the enemy who had managed to find safety in half destroyed dugouts emerged, when the barrage lifted, too dazed, too paralyzed with fright, to offer even the slightest resistance.

Havarians, Wurtembergers and Hamburgers, some of the best troops in the German army, surrendered in batches, thankful for being alive, and were passed back rapidly to the rear.

Just after sunrise the weather cleared for a brief space, not long enough for the air forces of the British to take up their burden again, but long enough for the Canadians to storm the Vimy ridge and remove the last obstacle to the eastward sweep of Haig's forces. The "tanks" forced the German line. As the Canadians took possession of the enemy's defences here, other British battalions stormed the famous redoubt "The Harp."

Advance Gains Speed

With the first German line crossed at nearly every point, the progress of the British was astonishingly swift and sustained. The German gunners became frantic as their fire failed to hit the advancing columns and the shells fell harmlessly behind them. Slowly starting their tanks to get the range before the first ranks of the British fell on them. For this reason the casualties of the British so far are reported to be slight.

But the British were in possession of the fortified localities of Feuchy, Chapelle de Feuchy, Hyderbad Redoubt, Athies and Thelus. Moving rapidly along the railroad running from their front to the Scarpe valley, they captured Maison Blanche Wood and pressed on.

Striking in the direction of Cambrai, on the eastern end of the line of attack, Haig's troops stormed the villages of Hermies, Demicourt and Bourbourg, and bit deep into the enemy's positions in the Havincourt Wood. Also fought along during the day, occupying Fresnoy, Pontu and Le Veigaier.

May Retire to Border

It is certain that at the present moment the whole line of battle, from Lille to Verdun, is undergoing changes that may eventually decide the war. It is unofficially that the Germans are burning and destroying villages far behind their line from Seissons to the Meuse, and that the terrific bombardment of Rheims and the savage infantry attacks along this front are merely feints to cover their further withdrawal to the border itself.

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"Do you think the committee is unwilling to give the President as many men as he asks for?" Mr. Dent was asked on returning from the White House.

"Oh, there is no question as to that," he replied quickly. "We are ready to give him all the men he wants, and all the money. The only difference is as to how the men shall be raised. I think they should be raised by the volunteer system. It is on that point that I am torn. I hope that some compromise may be worked out, but cannot discuss details as to that now."

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However, the vote will not be taken for at least two weeks. If President Wilson makes anything like as strong a fight as he has on Panama Canal tolls, on the McAdoo resolution and on the war resolution itself he will get conscription.

The House Military Committee is already restless under the pressure. It is resorting to two methods of checking publicity for the Administration's bill. One of these is to hold hearings in executive sessions, so that the arguments of Secretary of War Baker, Major General Scott and others for the bill cannot be given to the country.

No strategic or other reasons exist for this secrecy, and as a matter of fact the committee members are devoting their attention in the sessions, not to making an earnest, bona fide investigation, but to building up material for their speeches in the House later on.

No Copies Available

Another remarkable thing is that, although the bill was given to the press on the night the war resolution passed the House, it has not yet been introduced, and therefore printed copies of it are unobtainable.

In the Senate to-day Chairman Chamberlain of the Military Committee, declared that it would be impossible to raise an army anything as large as desired by any plan but conscription. Senator Stone proposed that the enlisted men of the army be paid \$60 a month instead of \$15. Senator Hughes, an ultra-pacifist, who said he would object to making the pay high enough to attract men to the business of soldiering.

McAdoo Tells Plans for Raising Five Billion Loan

Widest Opportunity To Be Given Public to Subscribe—Interest Probably 3 1/2 Per Cent

Washington, April 9.—The Administration's financial programme for carrying on the war, in so far as it relates to the authorization of a \$5,000,000,000 bond issue, including \$3,000,000,000 to be loaned to the Allies, will be placed before Congress within the next forty-eight hours, with every prospect of prompt approval.

The measure will be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee to-morrow afternoon. The committee probably will report the measure Wednesday and the House is expected to begin its consideration Thursday.

Official announcement was made to-night by Secretary McAdoo of the programme as follows:

"The Administration will ask Congress for authority to issue \$5,000,000,000 of government bonds to meet the situation created by the war with Germany. The proposed bonds will be exempt from taxation and bear interest probably at 3 1/2 per centum per annum. Two billion dollars of these bonds will be required to finance, in part, the expenditures involved in the proper organization and operation of the army and navy, and the conduct of the war generally.

Taxation Plan Will Take Time

"Of course, a large amount of additional revenue will have to be raised by taxation, but this part of the problem is under consideration by the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives. It will naturally take a reasonable time to discuss and agree upon the new items for taxation, which should not, and I am confident, will not become the subject of partisan treatment."

"Three billion dollars of the proposed issue of bonds should be used to supply credit to the governments making common cause with us against Germany, to enable them to secure essential supplies in the United States and carry on the war with increased effect. The most serviceable thing we can do immediately for the common cause is to furnish credit to these foreign governments who, in conjunction with us, are fighting Germany. This financial aid ought to be extended at the earliest possible moment. It will be trebly valuable and effective if extended now."

"The purpose is to purchase the obligations of the foreign governments to which credit is given, such obligations to bear the same rate of interest and in other essentials to contain the same terms and conditions as the bonds of the United States."

To Be Offered as Popular Loan

"The bonds of the United States will be offered as a great popular loan, and the opportunity will be given to the public to subscribe, and by subscribing to perform one of the most patriotic services that can be rendered to the country at this time."

"In view of the fact that the laws of the United States forbid the payment of commissions on sales of government bonds, it is extremely gratifying to the bankers and others who are from the country of the free use of their services and facilities in making the proposed bond issue a success. It is the purpose of the department to make use of these offers and to seek the assistance of the Federal Reserve banks, the national banks, the state banks and trust companies, the savings banks, insurance companies, private bankers and investors, bankers throughout the country, in the public offering of the bonds, every governmental agency, such as the internal revenue office and postoffice, will be asked to assist in this patriotic work."

"When the Congress shall have granted the necessary authority to make public offer of the bonds, I shall take the benefit of the counsel of the most experienced bankers and investors in the country as to the best means of making the offering a pronounced success."

Oversubscription Expected

"The wealth of the United States is so great, the investment resources of the country are so large, the strength of our banking situation is so phenomenal, and the patriotism of our people is so aroused, that I am confident that when the government offers its bonds for public subscription the amount will be overwhelmingly subscribed."

"So many offers have been received from bankers, organizations and individuals tendering their services and facilities to the government free of expense in placing the bonds at the disposal of the public, that it has been absolutely impossible for me to make personal acknowledgments and express my deep appreciation and gratification at this genuine manifestation of patriotic interest in the efforts to finance the war. So I am asking the newspapers of the country to indulge me to the extent of advising the senders of the many telegrams and letters which have poured into the department, of the government's appreciation of the loyal impulse and splendid spirit which inspired them."

It is possible that the bonds will carry the conversion privilege, permitting their holders to exchange them at par with bonds of any subsequent issues, bearing a higher interest.

Shackleton Reaches U. S.

San Francisco, April 9.—Sir Ernest Shackleton, Antarctic explorer, arrived today from Australia. He will lecture here.

Austria Breaks Off Relations With America

State of War with Dual Monarchy Is Expected to Follow

Ships Here Seized For Protection

Spain Takes Over U. S. Diplomatic Interests in Vienna

Washington, April 9.—Austria formally broke with the United States today, when the Austrian chargé d'affaires asked for his passports. That a state of war will now follow is not doubted. But it will be by the declaration of Austria, unless an American ship is destroyed by an Austrian submarine.

The Department of State has no doubt that, if the master mind at Berlin so decides, Germany's other allies, Turkey and Bulgaria, also will sever relations. However, the Turkish and Bulgarian representatives here have received no orders so far from home, and this government has not been informed that its representatives in Constantinople and Sofia have been handed their passports.

The State Department to-night gave out a statement telling of the efforts which have been made by this country, since the break with Germany, to avoid rupture with Austria.

This morning Baron Zwiadine, the Austrian chargé d'affaires here, learned through the Sayville wireless that his orders were to ask for passports for himself, the embassy staff, Count Tarnowski, the Ambassador designate, who never had been received by this government, and for all consular officers in the United States. There are twenty-five points in American territory where the Austrian government had agents. Including the Austrian representatives in Washington, the Philippines, Hawaii and Porto Rico, it is said that the party for which safe conduct must be secured from the Entente will number not more than 100. Every facility will be extended to the Austrians. It is believed that they will go home by the same route as that taken by Count von Bernstorff.

Many Americans in Austria

In Austria-Hungary to-day there are said to be some 200 native Americans and about 2,000 naturalized Americans. Many of the latter are expected to remain in Austria. The Ambassador, Mr. Penfield and the third secretary, now in Switzerland, will return by way of Spain.

The Austrian ships warbound in American ports were seized to-day, and the Austrian consular officers, it was explained, and they were not seized in the same sense as were the German ships.

Almost at the same time that Baron Zwiadine asked for his passports a dispatch was received from American Minister Stovall, at Berne, saying the Dual Monarchy had broken off diplomatic relations with the United States in Vienna yesterday. It is presumed this was done by handing passports to American Charge Grew.

Plots Here Offensive

Anti-American propaganda conducted by Austrian agents in German districts, has been no less offensive and scarcely less effective than the German propaganda itself.

Charge Grew at Vienna also will turn over to Spain the country has looked interests, such as the beginning of the war, Italian, French and Rumanian interests in Austria-Hungary previously looked after by the United States were of the same nature as were the German ships.

[The State Department's statement on the steps that led to the break with Austria is on Page 4.]

Fourteen Austrian Steamships Seized

Fourteen Austrian steamships, of an aggregate gross tonnage of 67,817, were taken under the control of the United States as a precautionary measure yesterday. At New York Collector Malone personally took possession of three vessels, and sent his deputy, George M. Lamb, to seize a fourth in Newark Bay. The others taken are distributed among the different seaports of the country between Boston and Galveston.

The twin screw passenger steamship Martha Washington, which lies off Stapleton, Staten Island, is the largest of the Austrian fleet in American waters, being of 8,312 gross tonnage. Collector Malone seized her at noon. From her he proceeded to the Ida and Nora, lying lashed together at the foot of Twenty-seventh Street, South Brooklyn. These are freighters, of 4,730 and 7,027 tons, respectively.

The Collector encountered no resistance whatever. In the absence of Captain Stuparich, Chief Officer Kandias surrendered the Martha Washington, and appeared very much relieved when he had done so.

From South Brooklyn Collector Malone returned to the Custom House, having dispatched Deputy Collector Lamb with a force of armed customs officers to take over the Himalaya in Newark Bay. The Himalaya, a freighter of 4,245 gross tons, was the first tugboat to be reported as having been damaged by her crew. There is reason to believe that every one of the Austrian vessels seized here yesterday has been rendered inoperable by her crew in much the same manner as the larger fleet of German boats.

Collector Malone had the officers and crews of the vessels seized in this harbor removed to Ellis Island. They numbered in all sixty-eight men.

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If a vote were taken to-day and every man in the House were to vote the way he is talking, the majority against the President's conscription plan would be tremendous.

However, the vote will not be taken for at least two weeks. If President Wilson makes anything like as strong a fight as he has on Panama Canal tolls, on the McAdoo resolution and on the war resolution itself he will get conscription.

The House Military Committee is already restless under the pressure. It is resorting to two methods of checking publicity for the Administration's bill. One of these is to hold hearings in executive sessions, so that the arguments of Secretary of War Baker, Major General Scott and others for the bill cannot be given to the country.

No strategic or other reasons exist for this secrecy, and as a matter of fact the committee members are devoting their attention in the sessions, not to making an earnest, bona fide investigation, but to building up material for their speeches in the House later on.

No Copies Available

Another remarkable thing is that, although the bill was given to the press on the night the war resolution passed the House, it has not yet been introduced, and therefore printed copies of it are unobtainable.

In the Senate to-day Chairman Chamberlain of the Military Committee, declared that it would be impossible to raise an army anything as large as desired by any plan but conscription. Senator Stone proposed that the enlisted men of the army be paid \$60 a month instead of \$15. Senator Hughes, an ultra-pacifist, who said he would object to making the pay high enough to attract men to the business of soldiering.

Debate on Draft Will Delay Bill

Washington, April 9.—President Wilson threw the weight of his personal influence into the scales to-day in an effort to overcome opposition in Congress to the Administration army plans based on the draft system.

In his war address Mr. Wilson formally told Congress that in his judgment